

Steven K. Young, Director

Former Caregiver Pleads Guilty to Theft in the Fourth Degree

ORANGE CITY, IOWA (February 10, 2005) – Donna Sue Mouw, 32, of Orange City pled guilty to one charge of theft in the fourth degree in Sioux County District Court and received a deferred judgment. Mouw was accused of stealing medications from two residents while working as a licensed practical nurse at Heritage House, a nursing facility in Orange City.

In announcing the deferred judgment, Third District Court Judge Robert J. Dull ordered Mouw be placed on probation for one year, complete 50 hours of unpaid community service, write apology letters to the victims in the case, undergo a mental health and substance abuse evaluation, and pay restitution in the amount of \$310.61 to the Iowa Medicaid Program. According to the trial information, Mouw was charged with stealing 105 Bextra pills and two Darvocet pills between May 1, 2003, and September 30, 2003. Bextra is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug used to relieve pain and swelling, and Darvocet is a combination of a narcotic and a non-narcotic used to treat mild to moderate pain.

Staff from the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals' (DIA) Health Facilities Division and Medicaid Fraud Control Unit investigated the theft of the medications. The case was referred by DIA to the Sioux County Attorney's Office for prosecution, where County Attorney Melissa R. O'Rourke and Assistant County Attorney Coleman J. McAllister handled it.

DIA Director Steve Young expressed his appreciation to the Sioux County Attorney further indicating, "Theft and crimes of violence involving dependent adult abuse is continuing to increase in Iowa and nationally. Vigilance is imperative, accountability a necessity."